

USSN: 10/613,493
Group No. 2875
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GPA 1/2006*

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A direct backlight module, comprising:

a diffuser;
a reflecting plate disposed under the diffuser;
an illumination tube disposed between the diffuser and the reflecting plate; and
a support disposed ~~on a non edge part of the reflecting plate and between the~~
~~diffuser and the reflecting plate for supporting the diffuser and illumination tube and~~
~~preventing bending of the diffuser and illumination tube, wherein the support has~~ the
support having a fitting portion, wherein:

the fitting portion comprises two side walls extending upwardly and separately,
into which the illumination tube directly fits.

the illumination tube is disposed in the fitting portion and between the side
walls, and

at least one of the side walls extends toward and beyond the top of the
illumination tube for preventing bending of the diffuser.

2. (previously presented) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 1, wherein a first gap exists between the support and the diffuser to protect the diffuser from deformation due to thermal expansion of the support.

3. (previously presented) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 1, wherein a second gap exists between the fitting portion of the support and the illumination tube to